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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1909

THE QUANTITATIVE STUDY OF ORGANIC REACTIONS¹

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BEFORE this body of chemists it is not necessary to call attention to the importance of many of the great researches in the field of so-called pure organic chemistry. The investigations of Liebig and Woehler and Fischer on uric acid derivatives, of Friedel and Kraft and others on the use of aluminium chloride, ferric chloride and zinc chloride in effecting many condensations; of Sandmeyer and Gatterman, Hantzsch, and Bamberger on the formation of diazo compounds and their derivatives; of Baeyer, Greene, Nietzki, Fischer and others on the formation of dyes; of Willstaetter, Pictet, Koenigs, and Pschorr on the alkaloids; of Wallach, Tie-
mann, Semmler and Harries on the terpenes; of Fischer, Kiliani, Tollens, Bruyn, Wohl and Ruff on the sugars, and of Fischer, Abderhalden, Neuberg, Curtius, Kossel, Osborne and Chittenden on the proteid compounds—all of these great researches speak for themselves in their importance to pure science, technology, medicine and the biological branches.

However much the physical chemist may turn up his nose, or hold it, in the organic laboratory and call us *pot-boilers* and *stink-producers* and *mere compound-makers*; however much the clean-working analytical or inorganic chemist may rail at us because we do not, as a rule, collect and weigh our organic precipitates accurately to within 0.10 per cent., yet these same deluded col-

¹Address of the chairman of the Division of Organic Chemistry in Section C of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Baltimore, 1908.